

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to clarify the present invention. In response to the Examiner's restriction requirement, Applicants have cancelled claims 18-26. New claims 27-30 have been added. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are patentable over the cited references. Reconsideration of the application is hereby requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons set forth below. Reconsideration of the application is hereby requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,176,103 to Cruden et al. in light of U.S. Patent No. 5,102,936 to Huth et al. The Examiner cites the Cruden et al. patent as showing a polymer latex useful in coating and binder compositions, wherein the polymer latex is derived from carbonyl-containing monomers, such as diacetone acrylamide. The Examiner cites the Huth et al. patent as showing a copolymer dispersion useful as a thickener, wherein the copolymer dispersion is derived from ethylenically unsaturated monomers that comprise a macromonomer of surface-active urethane derivatives and 0-5 weight percent of carbonyl-containing monomers. The Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to use the copolymer dispersion of the Huth et al. patent as a thickener in the aqueous system of Cruden et al. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants make the same arguments for patentability set forth in previous Amendment "B", which, for purposes of brevity, will not be repeated in detail herein. Applicants, however, would like to further point out that claims 1 and 8 have been amended to recite that the amount of the "monoethylenically unsaturated monomer

containing latent crosslinking functionality" in component (b) in claims 1 and 8 is "*greater than 5 weight percent*". In contrast, the Huth et al. patent only discloses that the copolymer dispersion can be formed from up to 5 weight percent of carbonyl-containing monomers. For at least this additional reason, Applicants submit that the Huth et al. fails to show the component (b) of independent claims 1 and 8.

For the reason set forth above and the reasons set forth in Applicants' Amendment B, Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 8 are patentable over the cited references. Applicants consider it apparent that claims 2-7, 9-17 and new claims 27-30 are also patentable over the cited references because they depend from claim 1 or claim 8 and recite additional novel features of the present invention.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

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The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (twice amended) An aqueous coating composition comprising:

5 (a) a binder polymer polymerized from one or more copolymerizable
monoethylenically unsaturated monomers, wherein at least one of said
monoethylenically unsaturated monomers is a carbonyl-containing
monomer selected from the group consisting of acrolein, methacrolein,
diacetone acrylamide, diacetone methacrylamide and vinylaceto acetate;
10 and

(b) a second polymer polymerized from monomers comprising a
monoethylenically unsaturated monomer containing latent crosslinking
functionality and a macromonomer comprising a hydrophobic portion
and an alkoxylated portion, wherein the amount of the monoethylenically
15 unsaturated monomer containing latent crosslinking functionality is in a
range that extends from greater than 5 weight percent to 50 weight
percent, based on the total weight of the second polymer.

8. (twice amended) An aqueous coating composition comprising:

20 (a) a binder polymer polymerized from one or more copolymerizable
monoethylenically unsaturated monomers, wherein at least one of said
monoethylenically unsaturated monomers is a carbonyl-containing
monomer selected from the group consisting of acrolein, methacrolein,
diacetone acrylamide, diacetone methacrylamide and vinylaceto acetate;
25 and

(b) at least one polymer comprising the reaction product of:

- 30 (i) an unsaturated carboxylic acid monomer,
(ii) a monoethylenically unsaturated monomer different from the
carboxylic acid monomer,
(iii) a macromonomer comprising a hydrophobic portion and an
alkoxylated portion, and

- (iv) a monoethylenically unsaturated monomer containing latent crosslinking functionality, wherein the amount of the monoethylenically unsaturated monomer containing latent crosslinking functionality is in a range that extends from greater than 5 weight percent to 50 weight percent, based on the total weight of the at least one polymer.